

CLAIMS

1. An information providing apparatus which has input means inputted with a remote control signal outputted from a wireless remote control device and switches a display screen in response to the remote control signal, to provide various information by selection on a predetermined menu screen, the apparatus comprising:

first determination means for determining whether or not a first operation key is operated on the remote control device;

screen switching means for switching the display screen from a first display screen to a second display screen if the first determination means determines that the first operation key is operated, and for displaying the second display screen while the first operation key is operated; and

second determination means for determining whether or not the second operation key is operated while the first operation key is operated, characterized in that

if the second determination means determines that the second operation key is operated while the first operation key is operated, processing based on operation of the second operation key is received on the second display screen.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the screen switching means switches the display screen from the second display screen to the first display screen, if the first determination means determines that a state where the first operation key is not operated is changed into a state where the first operation key is operated.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

layer screen display means for displaying at least a screen in a first layer and a screen in a second layer lower than the first layer; and

layer switching means for switching the screen in the first layer and the screen in the second layer each other, based on a control signal from the remote control device, characterized in that

the first display screen is the screen in the second layer, and the display screen is switched from the screen in the second layer to the second display screen if the first determination means determines that the first operation key is operated, and

when the display screen is the screen in the first layer, the display screen is switched from the screen in the first layer to a third display screen if the first determination means determines that the first operation key is operated.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the remote control device includes a grip part which can be gripped by one hand, first operation means provided at a position where the first operation means can be operated by a thumb finger when the grip part is gripped by one hand, and second operation means provided at a position where the second operation means can be operated by a forefinger when the grip part is gripped by one hand, and

the first operation key is the first operation means and the second operation means is the second operation key.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the information

is a series of video information based on a video signal, and

the second display screen is a screen on which index images for guiding scenes of a series of a video based on the video signal are arranged in time series.

6. An information providing method which includes input means inputted with a remote control signal outputted from a wireless remote control device, for switching a display screen in response to the remote control signal, to provide various information by selection on a predetermined menu screen, the method comprising:

a first determination step of determining whether or not a first operation key is operated on the remote control device;

a screen switching step of switching the display screen from a first display screen to a second display screen if it is determined in the first determination step that the first operation key is operated, and of displaying the second display screen while the first operation key is operated; and

a second determination step of determining whether or not the second operation key is operated while the first operation key is operated, characterized in that

if it is determined in the second determination step that the second operation key is operated while the first operation key is operated, processing based on operation of the second operation key is received on the second display screen.

7. A method according to claim 6, characterized in that if it is determined in the first determination step that a state where the first operation key is operated is changed into a state where the first operation key is not operated, the display screen

8. A method according to claim 6, further comprising:

a layer switching step of switching the screen in the first layer and the screen in the second layer each other, based on a control signal from the remote control device, characterized in that

when the display screen is the screen in the first layer, the display screen is switched from the screen in the first layer to a third display screen if it is determined in the first determination step that the first operation key is operated.

9. A method according to claim 6, characterized in that the remote control device includes a grip step of gripping a grip part by one hand, a first operation step of operating the first operation key provided at a position where the first operation key can be operated by a thumb finger when the grip part is gripped by one hand, and a second operation step of operating the second operation key provided at a position where the second operation key can be operated by a forefinger when the grip part is gripped by one hand.

10. A method according to claim 6, characterized in that the information is a series of video information based on a video signal, and

the second display screen is a screen on which index images for guiding scenes of a series of a video based on the video signal are arranged in time series.

0950154-090600